



HAMPDEN

Hampden County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Hampden is a small country town captured by the gentle hills and sloping mountains that surround it. The Scantic River meanders through town and brings reminiscences of the old plowshops, tanneries and blacksmith shops that once edged its shores. The Historical Society, housed in Old Academy Hall, displays the Sunday-go-to-Meeting clothes, diaries and yellowed letters that tell poignant stories of those who once called Hampden home. Today, new homes dot the hillsides but the population has hovered under 5,000 for many years. This is due in part to its topography and in part to its wetlands, and it is this very feature that has brought to Hampden the Audubon Society's Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, built around the former home of Thornton W. Burgess, well-known storyteller and author of children's nature books. Young people are very important to Hampden and the town's schools reflect that fact.

Hampden has a volunteer fire department, a town meeting form of government with three elected selectmen, a small post office where people call each other by name and residents or visitors can walk its unsidewalked roads at any hour in complete safety and without fear. All in all, town residents feel it is a place one is reluctant to leave in the morning and relieved to find waiting at the end of the day. Hampden, its citizens feel, is changing yet changeless, quiet yet alert, remembers its past yet ensures its future. The town is a true bit of Americana, residents feel, an oasis in a driven world.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by East Longmeadow on the west; Wilbraham on the north; Monson on the east; and Somers and Stafford, Connecticut, on the south. Hampden is 10 miles southeast of Springfield, 48 miles southwest of Worcester, 82 miles southwest of Boston, and 152 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 19.65 sq. miles

Land Area: 19.64 sq. miles

Population: 4,709

Density: 240 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Springfield Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....74.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.9"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Hampden, Monson

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 566-3214

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1878

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,841		
Democrats	675	23.8	%
Republicans	547	19.3	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,619	57.0	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Hampden town, Hampden County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,171	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,171	100.0
Male.....	2,499	48.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	33	0.6
Female.....	2,672	51.7	Mexican.....	4	0.1
Under 5 years.....	274	5.3	Puerto Rican.....	5	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	382	7.4	Cuban.....	6	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	445	8.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	18	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	375	7.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,138	99.4
20 to 24 years.....	155	3.0	White alone.....	5,060	97.9
25 to 34 years.....	434	8.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	957	18.5	Total population.....	5,171	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	882	17.1	In households.....	5,085	98.3
55 to 59 years.....	323	6.2	Householder.....	1,818	35.2
60 to 64 years.....	260	5.0	Spouse.....	1,302	25.2
65 to 74 years.....	376	7.3	Child.....	1,688	32.6
75 to 84 years.....	206	4.0	Own child under 18 years.....	1,291	25.0
85 years and over.....	102	2.0	Other relatives.....	161	3.1
Median age (years).....	41.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	59	1.1
18 years and over.....	3,810	73.7	Nonrelatives.....	116	2.2
Male.....	1,823	35.3	Unmarried partner.....	67	1.3
Female.....	1,987	38.4	In group quarters.....	86	1.7
21 years and over.....	3,654	70.7	Institutionalized population.....	86	1.7
62 years and over.....	828	16.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	684	13.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	283	5.5	Total households.....	1,818	100.0
Female.....	401	7.8	Family households (families).....	1,464	80.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	679	37.3
One race.....	5,141	99.4	Married-couple family.....	1,302	71.6
White.....	5,084	98.3	With own children under 18 years.....	598	32.9
Black or African American.....	9	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	111	6.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	10	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	60	3.3
Asian.....	22	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	354	19.5
Asian Indian.....	9	0.2	Householder living alone.....	295	16.2
Chinese.....	3	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	146	8.0
Filipino.....	2	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	719	39.5
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	432	23.8
Korean.....	3	0.1	Average household size.....	2.80	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.15	(X)
Other Asian ¹	5	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	1,846	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,818	98.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	28	1.5
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	3	0.2
Some other race.....	14	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	30	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	1,818	100.0
White.....	5,113	98.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,649	90.7
Black or African American.....	16	0.3	Renter-occupied housing units.....	169	9.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	26	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.89	(X)
Asian.....	28	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.93	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	0.1			
Some other race.....	17	0.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	56
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Hampden is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

There are no state highways in Hampden, but the county and rural roads are in good condition. The nearest state highway is Route 83 in the neighboring town of East Longmeadow. This highway is easily accessible from Hampden and leads into Springfield.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Hampden, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts and Connecticut is easily accessible.

Bus

Hampden is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA). There is no fixed route service available, but PVTA provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

Westover Metropolitan Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Chicopee, has 2 asphalt and concrete runways 7,050' and 11,600' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Laughing Brook Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary
789 Main Street
(413) 566-8034

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Mary Lyon Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.